

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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### Overview

Minnesota's largest school districts qualify for the alternative facilities revenue program. A district qualifies to participate in the alternative facilities program if the district has either: at least 1,850,000 square feet of building space and an average building age of 15 years or more; or more than 1,500,000 square feet of building space and an average building age of 35 years or more. A district that is participating in the alternative facilities program may issue bonds or annually levy for health and safety projects or for deferred maintenance projects without voter approval. As part of a plan that modified property tax class rates, the 1997 Legislature provided ongoing state aid payments to reduce alternative facility levy amounts for the districts that had issued bonds to fund alternative facilities projects. A school district that does not qualify for the alternative facilities program must either use its other general fund revenue for deferred maintenance needs or seek voter approval for those projects. For fiscal year 2012, the alternative facilities levy for qualifying districts totaled approximately \$140 million and the annual aid is about \$19.3 million.

This bill qualifies Independent School District, No. 284, Wayzata, for alternative facilities revenue (Wayzata's average building age is about 31 years and its building square footage is about 1.67 million square feet).

- 1 Independent School District, No. 284, Wayzata.** Qualifies the Wayzata school district for alternative facilities aid by amending the session law that specifically qualified the North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale and Stillwater school districts for the program.